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Message Text

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43
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---------- 031020
P 221316Z AUG 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 199891

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:AFSP, ASEC

SUBJECT: HIRING OF SECURITY GUARDS FOR PROTECTION OF STAFF RESIDENCES

REF: KUALA LUMPUR 4922

1. APPRECIATE EMBASSY BRINGING TO ATTENTION OF DEPARTMENT INCREASE IN URBAN CRIME IN KUALA LUMPUR DURING PAST SIX MONTHS. IN LIGHT OF RECENT JRA ATTACK WE ARE VERY SYMPATHETIC TO YOUR HEIGHTENED CONCERN AND WILL ASSIST TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE AND PRACTICAL. HOWEVER, THERE ARE RATHER PRECISE LIMITS BEYOND WHICH WE CANNOT GO.

2. DEPT. WAS UNAWARE UNTIL RECEIPT REFTEL THAT EIGHT STAFF RESIDENCES HAD BEEN ROBBED DURING THE PAST SIX MONTHS. NO LOSS OF PROPERTY CLAIMS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED AND SY HAS NO INFORMATION ON THE ROBBERIES. FULL REPORTS ON THE INCIDENTS WOULD BE APPRECIATED INCLUDING THE RESULTS OF THE MALAYSIAN POLICE INVESTIGATIONS.

3. REFTEL INDICATES THAT THE CRIMES REFLECT A GENERAL RISE IN URBAN CRIME WHICH DOES NOT NECESSARILY RELATE TO A
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THREAT TO THE PHYSICAL SECURITY OF OUR AMERICAN STAFF.

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WOULD APPRECIATE AN ASSESSMENT FROM THE REGIONAL SECURITY

SUPERVISOR ON THIS TENTATIVE CONCLUSION I.E., THAT THE CRIMES ARE NOT TERRORISTIC IN NATURE.

4. ARE WE CORRECT IN ASSUMING THAT OTHER FOREIGN MISSIONS HAVE ALSO SUFFERED FROM INCREASE IN ROBBERIES. AS HOST GOVERNMENT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR PROVIDING PROTECTION TO FOREIGN MISSION PROPERTY AND PERSONNEL, HAS THE EMBASSY, SINGLY OR IN CONCERT WITH OTHER MISSIONS, CONSIDERED MAKING A DEMARCHE TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY ON THIS PROBLEM?

5. WE WOULD APPRECIATE ALSO KNOWING WHAT OTHER FOREIGN MISSIONS AND NON-OFFICIAL AMERICANS ARE DOING TO SUPPLEMENT LOCAL POLICE PROTECTION. ARE THEY USING SECURICOR OR OTHER GUARD SERVICES, AND HOW IS EXPENSE BORNE? IF WE DECIDE TO SUPPLEMENT LOCAL POLICE PROTECTION, POST SHOULD ASSESS IMPACT VIS-A-VIS FOREIGN MISSIONS AND NON-OFFICIAL AMERICANS.

6. THE DEPT. WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR COMMENTS ON THE ABOVE AND ANY OTHER INFORMATION WHICH YOU DEEM USEFUL BY AUGUST 27 AS AMBASSADOR UNDERHILL IS SCHEDULED TO BE IN THE DEPARTMENT ON AUGUST 28/29 AND WE PLAN TO DISCUSS THE GUARD PROPOSAL WITH HIM AT THAT TIME. MAW

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